Steps taken by the Government to deal with insurgency situation in N.E. States include, *inter-alia*, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police Forces; sanction of Special Central assistance, reimbursement of security related expenditure; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'Unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action. State Governments are also sensitised from time to time to deal with the situation effectively.

Bill to Prohibit Construction of Places of Worship

643. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a move to tackle the Pakistan-ISI menace aimed at disturbing the peace and order along northern borders, Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent for President's assent a Bill proposing to prohibit the construction of places of worship-temples, mosques, churches without the prior prermission of the District Magistrate concerned;

(b) whether government consider it to be move to curb the freedom of worship of the minorities in the garb of containing disruptive activities of the ISI; and

(c) the steps already taken and being taken by Government to remove the apprehensions of the miniorities in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) the Uttar Pradesh regulation of Public Religious Buildings and Places bill, 2000 has been passed by the State Legislature recently. However, the Bill has been reserved by the Governor for the consideration/assent of the President.

The Bill seeks to regulate the use of a building as public religious building and the use of a place as public religious place or for the construction of a public religious building with a view to ensuring public order in the State.

The provisions of the Bill are under examination in consultation with the concerned Ministries/departments of the Central Government.

The Government is fully committed to preserving and further strengthening the secular ethos of our country.

Proposal to form UT comprising Tirap and Changlang

644. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to form Union Territory comprising of Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the Union territory will be formed;

(d) whether Government have any other proposals for the formation of Union Territory in any other part of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Freedom of Expression

†645. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that freedom of expression is enshrined in the Constitution as a fundamental right;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some people come forward to obstruct such freedom whether it be in book/film/play form; and

(c) what is being done by Government to keep the country out of the clutches of such fascist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Under Article 19 of the Constitution of India, freedom of expression has been recognized as a Fundamental Right. However, under the same Article, the State is empowered to impose reasonable restrictions on the operation of the Right in the interest of sovereignty and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.